

We claim:

1. A personal care composition comprising a water dispersible component and at least one ester.
- 5 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is comprised of, based upon the total weight of the composition,
 - b. from about 10 percent to about 80 percent of the water dispersible component; and
 - c. from about 20 percent to about 90 percent of the ester.
- 10 3. The personal care composition of claim 1, wherein the ratio of water dispersible component to ester ranges from about 1:9 to about 4:1.
4. The personal care composition of claim 1, further comprising a silicone component.
- 15 5. The personal care composition of claim 1, wherein the water dispersible component is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol 400, hexylene glycol, propylene glycol, polypropylene glycol-10 methylglucose ether, ethoxydiglycol, polyethylene glycol-6 caprylic/capric glycerides, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, triisopropyl citrate, polyethylene glycol-8 caprylic/capric glycerides, 3-methoxy-3-methyl-1-butanol, dimethyl isosorbide, polyethylene-6 caprylic/capric triglyceride, and mixtures thereof.
- 20 6. The personal care composition of claim 5, wherein the water dispersible component is selected from the group consisting of hexylene glycol, dimethyl isosorbide, polyethylene glycol-6 caprylic/capric glyceride, and mixtures thereof.
- 25 7. The personal care composition of claim 1, wherein the water dispersible component is comprised of, based upon the total weight percent of the personal care composition,
 - a) from about 5 percent to about 15 percent of hexylene glycol;
 - b) from about 5 percent to about 10 percent of polyethylene-6 caprylic/capric triglyceride.
- 30 8. The personal care composition of claim 1, wherein the ester is selected from liquid esters that either possess a structural means for ensuring the liquidity of the ester or are heterogeneous in nature.
9. The personal care composition of claim 1, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of

- a) a branched C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl alcohol ester of an aromatic acid;
 - b) a straight-chained or branched C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl acid esters of optionally ethoxylated/propoxylated polyols having from about 3 carbon atoms to about 7 carbon atoms;
 - 5 c) branched C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl alcohol esters of branched polyacids;
 - d) branched or straight-chained C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl acid esters of branched and/or unsaturated C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl alcohols;
 - e) branched or unsaturated C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl alcohol esters of an acid selected from the group consisting of adipic acid, succinic acid, sebacic acid, maleic acid, and mixtures thereof
 - 10 f) polyether interrupted fatty acid esters;
 - g) benzoic acid ester of heterogeneous alcohols having from about 8 carbon atoms to about 22 carbon atoms; and
 - h) mixtures thereof,
10. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the
- 15 group consisting of straight-chained or branched C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl acid esters of optionally ethoxylated/propoxylated polyols; benzoic acid esters of heterogeneous alcohols; and mixtures thereof.
11. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the
- 20 group consisting of butyloctyl salicylate; hexyldecyl benzoate; and butyloctyl benzoate; alkyl benzoates having from about 12 carbon atoms to about 15 carbon atoms; and mixtures thereof.
12. The personal care composition of claim 11, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of hexyldecyl benzoate, butyloctyl benzoate, and mixtures thereof.
13. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the
- 25 group consisting of pentaerythritol tetraoctanoate; trimethylolpropane trioctanoate; trioctanoin; pentaerythrityl tetrapelargonate; sorbitan trioleate; caprylic/capric triglyceride; neopentyl alcohol tetraoctanoate, and mixtures thereof.
14. The personal care composition of claim 13, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of caprylic/capric triglyceride; pentaerythritol tetraoctanoate;
- 30 trimethylolpropane trioctanoate; pentaerythrityl tetrapelargonate; and mixtures thereof.
15. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl alcohol esters of branched polyacids, wherein the alkyl

alcohol is optionally substituted and contains from about 3 carbon atoms to about 22 carbon atoms.

16. The personal care composition of claim 15, wherein the ester is trioctylododecyl citrate and mixtures thereof.

5 17. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of tridecyl neopentanoate, isostearyl palmitate, cetyl ricinoleate, cetyl octanoate, isononyl isononanoate, butyl stearate, octyldodecyl soyate, tridecyl erucate, octyldodecyl erucate/eicosil erucate, and mixtures thereof.

10 18. The personal care composition of claim 17, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of cetyl octanoate, isostearyl palmitate, isononyl isononanoate, and mixtures thereof.

19. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of diisopropyl adipate, dioctyl sebacate, dioctyl succinate, dioctyl maleate, diisostearyl adipate, diethyl sebacate, and mixtures thereof.

15 20. The personal care composition of claim 19, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, dioctyl sebacate, diisostearyl adipate, and mixtures thereof.

20 21. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of laureth-2 benzoate; C_8 to C_{22} fatty alkyl (optionally polypropylenoxy) polyethyleneoxy carboxylate esters derived from an alcohol having from about 1 carbon atom to about 22 carbon atoms; and mixtures thereof.

22. The personal care composition of claim 21, wherein the ester is isopropyl propylene glycol-2-isodeceth-7 carboxylate.

25 23. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is selected from at least two of the following esters:

a) branched C_5 to C_{22} alkyl alcohol esters of an aromatic acid;

b) branched or straight-chained C_5 to C_{22} alkyl acid esters of branched or unsaturated C_5 to C_{22} alkyl alcohols; and

30 c) straight-chained or branched C_5 to C_{22} alkyl acid esters of optionally ethoxylated/propoxylated polyols.

24. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is a mixture of, based upon the total weight percent of the esters,:

a) from about 30 percent to about 80 percent of branched or straight-chained C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl acid esters of branched or unsaturated C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl alcohols;

b) from about 10 percent to about 50 percent of branched C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl alcohol esters of an aromatic acid; and

5 c) from about 10 percent to about 50 percent of straight-chained or branched C₅ to C₂₂ alkyl acid esters of optionally ethoxylated/propoxylated polyols.

25. The personal care composition of claim 9, wherein the ester is a mixture comprised of, based upon the total weight percent of the ester,:

a) from about 15 percent to about 50 percent isononyl isononanoate;

10 b) from about 15 percent to about 50 percent isostearyl palmitate;

c) from about 15 percent to about 50 percent cetyl octanoate; and

d) from about 15 percent to about 50 percent pentaerthritol tetraoctanoate.

26. A personal care system comprising:

a. the personal care composition of claim 1;

15 b. water; and

c. a polymeric emulsifier and/or a thickener.

27. The personal care system of claim 26 comprising, based upon the total weight of the personal care system:

a. at least about 3 percent of the personal care composition of claim 1;

20 b. from about 70 percent to about 98 percent of water; and

c. from about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent of a polymeric emulsifier and/or thickener.

28. The personal care system of claim 26, wherein the polymeric emulsifier is polyethylene glycol-30 dipolyhydroxystearate; dimethicone copolyol; substituted acrylates; and
25 mixtures thereof.

29. The personal care system of claim 26, wherein the thickener is selected from the group consisting of carbomers, acrylate copolymers, hydroxyethylcellulose modified with cetyl ether groups, polyvinylmethyl ether/maleic anhydride (PVM/MA) decadiene crosspolymer, and mixtures thereof.

30. The personal care system of claim 26, wherein the thickener is selected from the group consisting of acrylates/aminoacrylates copolymer, acrylates/steareth-20 methacrylate

copolymer; acrylates/ceteth-20 itaconate copolymer, acrylates/steareth-20 itaconate copolymer, carbomers, modified hydroxycellulose, polyvinylacetate/maleic anhydride (PVA/MA) decadiene crosspolymer, and mixtures thereof.

31. The system of claim 30, further comprising a benefit agent.

5 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the benefit agent is selected from the group consisting of vasoconstrictors, collagen enhancers, anti-edema agents, depigmentation agents; reflectants; detangling/wet combing agents; film forming polymers; humectants; amino acid agents; antimicrobial agents; allergy inhibitors; anti-acne agents; anti-aging agents; anti-wrinkling agents, antiseptics; analgesics; antitussives; antipruritics; local
10 anesthetics; anti-hair loss agents; hair growth promoting agents; hair growth inhibitor agents; antihistamines; antiinfectives; inflammation inhibitors; anti-emetics; anticholinergics; vasoconstrictors; vasodilators; wound healing promoters; peptides, polypeptides and proteins; deodorants and anti-perspirants; medicament agents; skin emollients and skin moisturizers; skin firming agents, hair conditioners; hair softeners; hair moisturizers;
15 vitamins; tanning agents; skin lightening agents; antifungals; depilating agents; shaving preparations; external analgesics; perfumes; counterirritants; hemorrhoidals; insecticides; poison ivy products; poison oak products; burn products; anti-diaper rash agents; prickly heat agents; make-up preparations; vitamins; amino acids and their derivatives; herbal extracts; retinoids; flavenoids; sensates; anti-oxidants; skin conditioners; hair lighteners;
20 chelating agents; cell turnover enhancers; coloring agents; pigments; sunscreens and mixtures thereof.

33. The system of claim 31, wherein the benefit agent is selected from the group consisting of feverfew, centella asiatica, olive leaf, wheat protein, oat oil, lycopene, DMAE, soy and derivatives thereof, colloidal oatmeal, sulfonated shale oil, elubiol, 6-(1-piperidiny)-
25 2,4-pyrimidinediamine-3-oxide, finasteride, ketoconazole, salicylic acid, zinc pyrithione, coal tar, benzoyl peroxide, selenium sulfide, hydrocortisone, sulfur, menthol, pramoxine hydrochloride, tricetylammonium chloride, polyquaternium 10, panthenol, panthenol triacetate, vitamin A and derivatives thereof, vitamin B and derivatives thereof, vitamin C and derivatives thereof, vitamin D and derivatives thereof, vitamin E and derivatives thereof,
30 vitamin K and derivatives thereof, keratin, lysine, arginine, hydrolyzed wheat proteins, hydrolyzed silk proteins, octyl methoxycinnamate, oxybenzone, minoxidil, titanium dioxide, zinc dioxide, retinol, erythromycin, tretinoin, and mixtures thereof.

34. The system of claim 31, wherein the benefit agent is present in an amount, based upon the total weight of the system, from about 0.001 percent to about 5.0 percent.

35 35. The system of claim 26, further comprising a stability enhancer selected from a nonionic emulsifier, an essentially non-foaming surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

36. A method of treating hair loss comprising topically applying the system of claim 26 with an effective amount of a hair loss treatment agent to a desired location on an animal or human.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the hair loss treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of minoxidil, 6-(1-piperdiny)-2,4-pyrimidinediamine-3-oxide, N'-cyano-N-(tert-pentyl)-N'-3-pyridinyl-guanidine, finasteride, retinoids and derivatives thereof, ketoconazole, elubiol or mixtures thereof.

38. A method for inhibiting hair growth comprising topically applying the system of claim 26 with a hair growth inhibiting agent to a desired area on an animal or human for inhibiting hair growth.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the benefit agent is selected from the group consisting of serine proteases, retinol, isotretinoin, betamethoisone, alpha-tocophenol and derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

40. A method for treating acne comprising topically applying a mixture of the system of claim 26 and an effective amount of an anti-acne agent to the skin of an animal or human at a desired area.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the anti-acne agent is selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, retinol, elubiol, antibiotics, salicylic acid, and mixtures thereof.

42. A method for reducing the signs of aging and other manifestations of photodamage comprising topically applying a mixture of the system of claim 26 and an effective amount of an anti-aging agent to the skin of an animal or human at a desired area.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the anti-aging agent is selected from the group consisting of retinoids, anti-oxidants, alpha-hydroxy acids, beta-hydroxy acids and mixtures thereof.

44. A method for depigmenting the skin comprising topically applying the system of claim 26 and an effective amount of a depigmentation benefit agent to the skin of an animal or human at a desired area.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the depigmentation agent is selected from the group consisting of retinol, Kojic acid, hydroquinone, and mixtures thereof.

46. A method for treating the symptoms and/or the diseases of dandruff, seborrheic dermatitis and/or psoriasis, comprising topically applying a mixture of the system of claim 26 and an effective amount of a benefit agent capable of treating the symptoms to the skin of an animal or human at a desired area.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein the benefit agent is selected from the group consisting of shale oil and derivatives thereof, elubiol, ketoconazole, coal tar, salicylic acid,

zinc pyrithione, selenium sulfide, hydrocortisone, sulfur, menthol, pramoxine hydrochloride, and mixtures thereof.

5 48. The system of claim 26, wherein said system is in the form of a gel, a bath, a wash, a mousse, a shampoo, a rinse, a lotion, a cream, a dry wipe, a wet wipe, a brush, a sponge, or a spray.

 49. The system of claim 26, wherein said system is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

 50. A method of delivering a benefit agent to hair, skin or nails comprised of applying the composition of claim 31 to a desired location.

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